

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAGR

SUBJECT: FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S DESIRE TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND AGRICULTURE AND PRESIDENT CARTER DURING HIS MARCH 20-23 VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. THE MAIN REASON FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA CALLED IN THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO ON MARCH 2 TO DISCUSS SAOUMA'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS TO STRESS HIS STRONG DESIRE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BERGLAND, AND IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PRESIDENT CARTER. SAOUMA BELIEVES THAT THEIR RECEIVING CALLS BY HIM WOULD GREATLY STRENGTHEN HIS HAND.

2. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO RECOMMENDS THAT THESE APPOINTMENTS BE MADE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD BE OF SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS FROM THE OUTSET OF FAO, THROUGH MANY U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS, PLAYED A PREDOMINANT ROLE IN FAO AND RELATED INTERNATIONAL FOOD ORGANIZATIONS. IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE OF 1974 AND IN FOLLOW-UPS TO MEET THE CRITICAL WORLD FOOD PROBLEM, THE U.S. HAS TAKEN THE MAJOR INITIATIVES, WITH STRONG NON-PARTISAN SUPPORT. IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS ARE COMING UP IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES

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HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE, THE MOST DRAMATIC BEING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BILLION DOLLAR INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

ALTHOUGH THIS AND SOME OF THE OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ARE NOT INSTITUTIONALLY WITHIN FAO, FAO IS THE LARGEST AND MAIN INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION, ON WHICH THE OTHERS ARE IN EFFECT BASED. THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR IS RELATIVELY A

POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ONE WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL FIELD, WITH FAR LESS CONFRONTATION AND MUCH MORE COLLABORATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAN OTHER SECTORS. SAOUMA, AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY LEADERS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HAS PARTICULARLY STRESSED NON-POLITICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITY. PUBLICITY OF A HIGH-LEVEL U.S. RECEPTION OF HIM COULD BE OF SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE FAO AND WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN GENERAL.

3. SINCE SAOUMA IS PROMINENT LEBANESE CHRISTIAN AND HAS RECENTLY VISITED HIS HOME COUNTRY OFFICIALLY TO PLAN FOOD AID AND AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION, HIS VISIT COULD BE USED TO PUBLICIZE THE MAJOR CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS THE U.S. IS MAKING IN LEBANON IN THOSE FIELDS. A SEPARATE BRIEF TELEGRAM WILL FOLLOW ON SAOUMA'S CURRENT THINKING ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION.)

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS CITED BY SAOUMA ON MARCH 2 ARE:

A. HIS TWO IMMEDIATE PREDECESSORS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY U.S. PRESIDENTS.

B. HE WILL BE RECEIVED DURING HIS PRESENT TRIP BY PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA AND POSSIBLY THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, AS HE OFTEN HAS BEEN BY OTHER PRESIDENTS.

C. ON MARCH 10, THE DAY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, HE IS TO BE THE GUEST SPEAKER OF THE AMERICAN CLUB IN ROME, AND PLANS TO MAKE A SPEECH HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY OF THE CENTRAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE THE UNITED STATES HAS PLAYED IN FAO. BEAUDRY
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Message Attributes

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